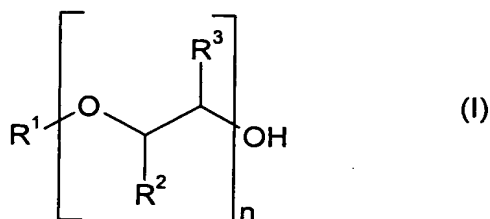


We claim:

1. Polymeric particles capable of absorbing blood and/or body fluids and comprising

- 5 a) at least one interpolymerized ethylenically unsaturated acid-functional monomer,  
 b) at least one interpolymerized crosslinker,  
 c) if appropriate one or more interpolymerized ethylenically and/or allylically unsaturated monomers copolymerizable with a),  
 10 d) if appropriate one or more water-soluble polymers onto which said monomers a), b) and if appropriate c) are at least partially grafted, and  
 e) if appropriate one or more reacted postcrosslinkers,

15 wherein said polymeric particles are coated with at least one surfactant and with at least one solvent of the general formula I



where

20  $\text{R}^1$  is  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_8$ -alkyl with or without halogen substitution,

$\text{R}^2, \text{R}^3$  are independently hydrogen or methyl, and

$n$  is an integer from 0 to 5.

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2. The polymeric particles according to claim 1 wherein the surfactant is a nonionic surfactant having an HLB value in the range from 2 to 18.

30 3. The polymeric particles according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the solvent is a compound of the general formula I where

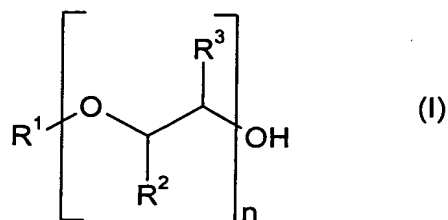
$\text{R}^1$  is  $\text{C}_2$ - $\text{C}_6$ -alkyl,

$\text{R}^2, \text{R}^3$  are each hydrogen, and

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$n$  is an integer from 1 to 3.

4. The polymeric particles according to any of claims 1 to 3 that are further coated with at least one multivalent metal cation.
5. The polymeric particles according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein the multivalent metal cation is an aluminum cation.
6. The polymeric particles according to any of claims 1 to 5 that are characterized by a blood absorbance of at least 15 g/g in the dry state.
7. The polymeric particles according to any of claims 1 to 6 that are not postcrosslinked.
8. A mixture of polymeric particles according to any of claims 1 to 6 wherein not less than 20% by weight of said polymeric particles are not postcrosslinked.
9. A process for producing polymeric particles capable of absorbing blood and/or body fluids by addition polymerization of a mixture of
  - a) at least one ethylenically unsaturated acid-functional monomer which may each be at least partially neutralized,
  - b) at least one crosslinker,
  - c) if appropriate one or more ethylenically and/or allylically unsaturated monomers copolymerizable with a),
  - d) if appropriate one or more water-soluble polymers onto which said monomers a), b) and if appropriate c) may be at least partially grafted,
 the base polymer obtained being dried, classified and
  - e) if appropriate aftertreated with one or more postcrosslinkers and dried,
 which comprises the dried polymeric particles being aftertreated with at least one surfactant and with at least one solvent of the general formula I



where

$\text{R}^1$  is  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_8$ -alkyl with or without halogen substitution,

$R^2$ ,  $R^3$  are independently hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, and

$n$  is an integer from 0 to 20.

- 5
10. The process according to claim 9 wherein said dried polymeric particles are aftertreated with the solution of at least one multivalent metal cation.
- 10 11. The process according to claim 9 or 10 wherein the dried base polymer is classified such that the polymeric particles are less than 500  $\mu\text{m}$  in particle size.
12. The process according to any of claims 9 to 11 wherein a solution of said surfactant in said solvent is sprayed onto said polymeric particles.
- 15 13. The process according to any of claims 9 to 12 wherein an aqueous solution of said multivalent metal cation is sprayed onto said polymeric particles.
14. A process for producing a hygiene article, which comprises utilizing polymeric particles according to any of claims 1 to 8 as an absorbent.
- 20 15. A hygiene article comprising polymeric particles according to any of claims 1 to 8.